



# Missouri Highlights

***Success Stories 2006***

**MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS**

*Making Things Happen in Rural Missouri*

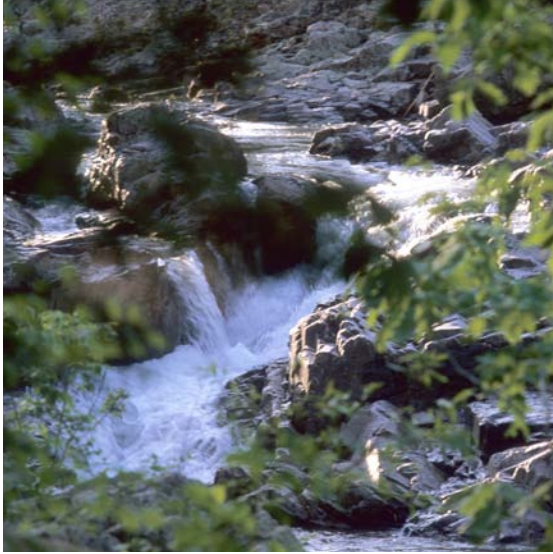
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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN MISSOURI

**The Big Springs RC&D** is co-sponsoring a project with the Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council (EOFC) titled 'You Win When You Thin.' This project will be reaching out to the SWCD boards, Farm Bureau boards and Missouri Farmers Union boards in a 14-county area to build interest in promoting sustainable forestry. A new video on DVD was developed as part of the project in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Several informational field days and expositions are planned for the general public in FY 2007.

The Missouri Ozark Regional Explorers (MORE), a group sponsored by the Big Springs RC&D and the Top of the Ozarks RC&D, developed a new birding brochure. 'Great Birding Locations in South Central Missouri' features two public-land locations per county in 15 counties. The MORE group is seeking funds to complete a large printing of the brochure for distribution in several locations in and around Missouri. For more information about MORE visit their website at: [www.ozarkexplorers.com](http://www.ozarkexplorers.com)

The MORE group is also working on a new project called 'Waymarking' using GPS technology. The project highlights cultural and historical sites in the 15-county region using a GPS receiver to encourage more visitations to area communities. These sites will be located on the website at: [www.waymarking.com](http://www.waymarking.com). Prizes are being offered to those who visit all of the sites first.

The EPA-funded Wetland Program Development project is under way in the **Bootheel RC&D** area. The \$208,000 grant will be performed over a three-year period. The first phase of the project called for constructing a pumping station into a Wetland Reserve Program site on the Minton Agco Farm in Stoddard County. Monitoring stations have been established to collect monthly water samples to study the natural filtering effects on water from wetland sites which are ultimately released into Cypress Ditch. The project should result in providing improved wetland management practices and hard scientific data relating to environmental and economic effects of wetlands. Partners in the project include Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stoddard County Industrial Development Authority, Missouri Enterprise, Inc. and University of Missouri-Rolla.

# Making Good Things Happen

Utilizing grant money from AT&T as a match, the Bootheel RC&D acquired additional money from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Soil and Water Program to initiate a Web Site Development project for SWCDs. Bootheel RC&D facilitated this project and provided the technical support. Launched this year, funding for the project will support the sites for three years. The website can be viewed at: [www.bootheelswcd.com/](http://www.bootheelswcd.com/)

**The Green Hills RC&D's** Career Independence Program, commonly called the "School to Work Program," reached a milestone by self sustaining five consecutive years with the program growing in strength and numbers. The Green Hills RC&D, in partnership with the Grand River Technical School, places junior and senior high school students in an RC&D project office with a real work schedule in a real work environment. This experience gives scholastically challenged students an opportunity to learn and refine various work skills for increasing their employment potential upon graduation. Missouri NRCS selected the Grand River Tech guidance counselors and the 17 participating students in the Career Independence Program as their 2006 group Earth Team Volunteer of the Year Award recipient. In 2007 Career Independence students will engage in RC&D contractual duties furthering the Green Hills RC&D in mission oriented achievement.

**The Northeast Missouri RC&D** was awarded a Section 319 Non-Point source Pollution Grant for water quality projects on the Fox River in Scotland and Clark counties. Funds from the grant have been utilized for projects resulting in an estimated 307,180 tons of soil saved, a pesticide reduction of 1,198 pounds, nitrogen reduction of 86,860 pounds, and a phosphorus reduction of 41,690 pounds during the project period. The council is also partnering with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the City of Memphis to implement a water quality project on the Memphis City Lake that serves as a public water supply. The watershed is comprised of row crop and livestock operations. Through the Missouri Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program the council will work with landowners to reduce possible contamination of the water supply from pesticides and nutrients.

**The Osage Valley RC&D** provided guidance on E-9-1-1 equipment to the Vernon County Commission as well as to 12 local governmental bodies and numerous community service agencies that encompass the 837 square mile limited resource area of Vernon County. The RC&D Council leadership helped form a strong coalition leading to the successful

receipt of a \$122,000 grant for the system, helped create the bid specifications for the systems and successfully secured a grant well under the allotted funds to install the county's first "Enhanced 9-1-1 System." The council's combined leadership has also led to two additional grants for hand-held radios for emergency workers and provided road signs to help implement E-9-1-1. Additional support is being sought to develop the geographical information support (GIS) system to support the enhanced E-9-1-1. Vernon County has shared their experiences with other limited resource communities.

Trustees for the Vernon County-Rolling Meadows Subdivision Sewer District approached the Osage Valley RC&D in early 2005 after several attempts with local and state officials were unsuccessful in assisting the needs of this small, rural, low-to-moderate-income subdivision. The subdivision has been plagued with water quality and health violations for about 30 years. The staff, in cooperation with the trustees and other state and federal officials, met to determine the course of action to take in resolving this problem of limited resource sewer district restoration. The staff assisted in organizing meetings, collecting data and preparing a sewer collection and treatment modification proposal that would restore water quality and health to this community at a cost of nearly \$405,000. The pre-application was successfully received by the state-level review committee with minor recommendations to improve the final application. Currently the group is pursuing a full application with potential funding anticipated from two sources, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and USDA Rural Development (RD) community funds.

**The Prairie Rose RC&D** sponsored an Illegal Dumping Awareness program for 5th graders in Lafayette County. A poster contest was used to highlight the problems caused by illegal dumping, and the winning posters were incorporated into a calendar that has been distributed to schools and businesses in the county. In addition, the Grand Winning poster was made into a billboard that is displayed along highways at six different locations in the county.

**Southwest Missouri RC&D** facilitated the many partners needed to fund Mark Twain School's new sewage treatment system and the City of Marshfield's Citizens and Technical Committees that made sewage treatment plant recommendations to the city council. This planning resulted in an estimated savings of \$2 million in combined project costs. The RC&D sponsored a proposal to establish the South Missouri Water Quality Project, which is an interdisciplinary wa-



ter quality staff serving the Upper White River Basin. The RC&D also sponsored “Firewise,” a statewide grant to teach people how to live more safely with the threat of wildfire.

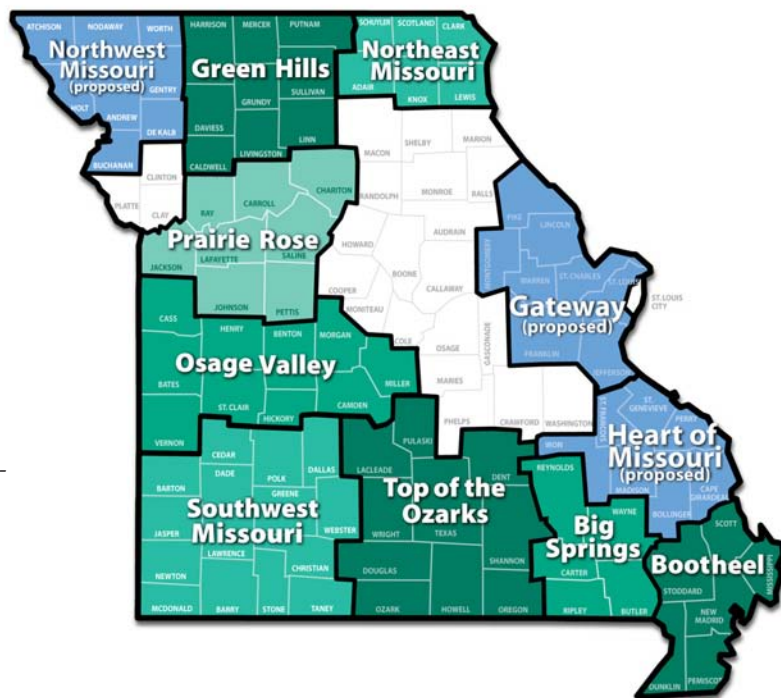
A forester housed at the Southwest Missouri RC&D Project Office is funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation. This person works with landowners to help them manage their forests and wildlife, plan and plant windbreaks, odor breaks, and establish riparian buffers.

**The Top of the Ozarks RC&D** and HUD sponsored a project utilizing straw-bale homes are scheduled for construction in spring 2007 with other potential applicants in various stages of the process. The homes will utilize Missouri-grown straw to provide needed housing and alternative agricultural markets in Douglas and Ozark counties. Plans are also under way for a ‘Watershed Day’ for the 4th and 5th graders of the five school districts within the Jacks Fork Watershed, with funding provided by EPA. ‘River Etiquette’ maps will be distributed by canoe concessionaires in 2007, aided by new restroom location signage from a DNR mini-grant. In addition, tentative approval has been given for 319 funding for septic demonstrations within the watershed. These initiatives are a partnership of the Jacks Fork Watershed Steering Committee, Top of the Ozarks RC&D and The National Park Service.

The Top of the Ozarks Forestry and Wildlife Committee has begun a writer’s guild whereby forestry related articles by professionals are provided weekly to six newspaper outlets throughout the Ozarks.

**The Heart of Missouri RC&D Council**, in cooperation with the Missouri Association of RC&D Councils and the USDA Forest Service, installed 72 dry hydrants in 18 rural fire protection districts within the eight-county RC&D area. Cost-share assistance totaled \$28,800 with an estimated \$30,000 in local matching services. The council received its 501c3 Tax Exempt Determination from IRS, completing all necessary business requirements to operate as a Non Profit entity in Missouri.

Three applications are waiting for USDA approval to authorize financial support for three new RC&D project areas in the state. The Heart of Missouri, Gateway, and Northwest Missouri RC&D councils worked diligently during the year towards attaining approval of their 501c3 nonprofit status.



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